

M A R T L E Y R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF SANITARY OFFICER AND BUILDING SURVEYOR

for the year

1951



Margaret C. Fell,

Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt,

Chief Sanitary Officer &
Building Surveyor.



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RURAL DISTRICT OF MARTLEY

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1951.

Public Health Department,
1 The Tything,
Worcester.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Martley Rural District Council

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health of the Rural District for the year 1951.

The report is divided into the following sections:-

- Section A Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.
- Section B General Provision of Health Services for the area.
- Section C Sanitary Circumstances of the area.
- Section D Housing.
- Section E Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- Section F Prevalence of and control over Infectious Disease.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The rural district of Martley, comprising 52,838 acres, is predominantly agricultural in character and lies to the West of the City of Worcester. The River Teme running from West to East divides the district into two parts.

Of the 27 parishes in the area, only North Hallow and Leigh have a population of more than 1,000.

The chief industry is agriculture and the district is one of the most important fruit and hopgrowing areas in the country. Each year the hop-picking season attracts large numbers of people to the district and these come mainly from the Black Country.

The health of your district continues to be good and vital statistics for the year are given in the following tables.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area in Acres.....	52,838
Number of inhabited houses (1st April, 1952)	
According to Rate Book.....	3,507
Rateable Value..... do	£40,359
Sum represented by one penny rate	£165
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1951)..	11,540

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births</u>			
Legitimate.....	91	95	186
Illegitimate.....	4	8	12
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population.....			
Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period.....			17.16
			15.50

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Still Births</u>			
Legitimate.....	3	-	3
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 estimated population.....			
Rate per 1,000 England and Wales.....			0.26
			0.36

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Deaths</u>			
From all causes.....	74	68	142
Rate per 1,000 estimated population.....			12.30
Rate for England and Wales.....			12.50

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</u>			
Legitimate.....	1	2	3
Illegitimate.....	-	2	2
Infantile Mortality Rate for the Year.....			
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for the same period.....			25.25
			29.60

<u>Deaths from Special Causes</u>	1951
Deaths from Cancer.....	20
Deaths from Measles.....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough.....	Nil

Causes of Death as Classified by the Registrar General

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	-	1
Syphilitic Diseases.....	-	-
Diphtheria.....	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	-	-
Meningococcal Infections.....	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	-	-
Measles.....	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	-
Cancer of Stomach.....	4	2
Cancer of Lung.....	1	1
Cancer of Breast.....	-	2
Cancer of Uterus.....	-	-
Cancer of All Other Sites.....	7	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	-	-
Diabetes.....	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	13	9
Coronary disease, angina.....	5	8
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	1
Other heart disease.....	18	14
Other circulatory disease.....	-	-
Influenza.....	2	3
Pneumonia.....	6	2
Bronchitis.....	1	9
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	1	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.....	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis.....	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate.....	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-
Congenital malformations.....	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	6	9
Road traffic accidents.....	1	-
All other accidents.....	3	-
Suicide.....	-	-
Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. Public Health Staff of the Authority

Margaret C. Fell, MB., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
Chief Sanitary Officer & Building Surveyor.

W. F. Acres, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I. (appointed Housing
Additional Sanitary Officer. Manager - 1.3.51)

J. D. Blakeway, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A. (appointed 1.4.51)
Additional Sanitary Officer.

Miss P. A. A. Roche,
Shorthand/Typist & Clerk.

H. G. Dew,
Assistant Rodent Officer.

2. Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, (Part III), the following services are provided by the County Council:-

(a) Ambulance Service

(b) Home Nursing & Health Visiting Service

Seven district nurse/midwives work in the Rural District. They attend maternity cases and cases of general illness and in most instances they carry out the duties of Health Visitor for their district.

(c) Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria can be undertaken, free of charge, by the patient's own doctor, or at one of the County Council's Clinics.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children

The district is served by the County Council's antenatal clinics at Worcester, Malvern, and Stourport-on-Severn, and by Infant Welfare Clinics at Worcester, Hallow, Broadheath, Areley Kings, Great Witley and Clifton-on-Teme. The County Council's Mobile Infant Welfare Clinic visits Martley and the Leigh and Bransford districts.

SECTION B (continued)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA (contd.)

3. Hospitals

The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Kidderminster.

Cases of Infectious Disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.

Maternity cases can be admitted to the Lucy Baldwin Hospital at Stourport-on-Severn, the Mary Stevens Maternity Home at Stourbridge and the All Saints Maternity Home at Bromsgrove or to Avonside, Evesham.

4. National Assistance Act, 1948 (section 47)

No action was taken by the Council under this section of the Act during the year.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

I have nothing further to add to the comments made on the subject of water supplies in my annual report of last year. An adequate supply of wholesome water is needed urgently in this district and it is earnestly hoped that the Council's scheme for supplying this need will be proceeded with.

The water from 26 wells in the district was sampled during the year. Of these samples 15 were found to be chemically unsatisfactory, and 17 were found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

2. Sewerage

New Sewage Disposal Works are necessary in the following villages:- Clifton-on-Teme, Lower Broadheath, Sinton Green. Further extensions are necessary at the existing works at North Hallow.

The following table gives particulars of existing water supplies and methods of sewage disposal in the district.

From Public Mains

From Private supplies e.g.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Direct to Houses		By means of stand-pipe		From Private supplies e.g. wells, springs.		Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	
Parish	No. of Dwell: houses	Popu-lation	Popul-ation	No. of Dwell: houses	Popu-lation	No. of dwell: connected to Public sewer	No. of houses with Pails Cess pits etc.
Abberley	-	-	-	162	477	-	110 41 11
Alfrick	-	-	-	151	420	-	112 38 1
Astley	-	-	-	373	810	-	296 61 16
Bransford	-	-	-	89	281	-	67 22 -
Broadwas	-	-	-	83	248	-	60 22 1
Clifton-on-Teme	80	236	13	42	136	-	61 18 1
Cotheridge	-	-	-	49	231	-	41 17 2
Doddenhham	-	-	-	59	231	-	61 17 1
Grimley	-	-	-	80	322	-	62 20 1
Hallow, North	113	377	-	182	625	-	61 18 1
Hillhampton	-	-	-	374	1232	-	41 17 2
Holt	-	-	-	34	100	-	61 18 1
Kenswick	-	-	-	115	364	-	61 18 1
Knightwick	-	-	-	7	21	-	61 18 1
Leigh	-	-	-	43	151	-	61 18 1
Lulslley	-	-	-	286	1095	-	61 18 1
Martley	-	-	-	46	153	-	61 18 1
St. Johns	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Sapey	-	-	-	281	896	-	61 18 1
Shelsley Beauchamp	-	-	-	240	772	-	61 18 1
Shelsley Kings	-	-	-	61	184	-	61 18 1
Shrawley	-	-	-	80	190	-	61 18 1
Suckley	-	-	-	20	205	-	61 18 1
Wichenford	-	-	-	151	381	-	61 18 1
Witley, Great	-	-	-	150	589	-	61 18 1
Witley, Little	-	-	-	103	338	-	61 18 1
	-	-	-	108	329	-	61 18 1
	-	-	-	177	177	-	61 18 1

SECTION D

HOUSING

Forty three new houses were built in the district during 1951, thirty five by the Local Authority, eight by other persons.

Twelve cases of overcrowding were relieved during the year. Four tuberculosis families were rehoused during the year.

The need for more houses in the district is still great and there are a number of cases of overcrowding on the waiting list. In addition, there are many unfit houses which should be dealt with by Demolition Order. It is hoped that it will be possible to take action in this matter when the housing situation improves.

The following table shows the housing work carried out in the district during the year:-

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

1. by the local authority	35
2. by other bodies or persons	8

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses:-

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	42
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	46
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under one above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 nil	nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	nil
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	nil
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..	38

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices:-

1. Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	18
2. Number of houses where urgent repairs carried out by informal action	18

HOUSING,
SECTION D (continued)

3. Action under Statutory Powers

(A) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4
2.	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	.

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.									
1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4							
2.	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-								
(a)	By Owners	2							
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	nil							

(C) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(D) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made nil
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV) - Overcrowding:-

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of this year	}	Not known.
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	}	
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein)	
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year		2
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year		12
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases		49
(iii)	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved		nil

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This work received special attention during the year, particularly in regard to "Clean Food."

Attention was given to putting into operation the new Food Byelaws which have been adopted by the Local Authority. Visits of inspection were made to all food shops and catering establishments in the district with the result that many improvements in conditions have been made.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Diphtheria Immunisation

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, children can be immunised against diphtheria free of charge, by their own doctor or at one of the County Council's clinics. The following table shows the number of children who were immunised during the year in the district:-

Number of children who completed a course of primary immunisation in the Authority's area during 1951.		Number of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection during the year.	
Age at final injection.		Total	Under 14 years
under 5	5 - 14		129
148	20	<u>168</u>	

No cases of diphtheria occurred in the Rural District during the year.

Vaccination

One hundred and fifty-nine persons received a primary vaccination and twelve were re-vaccinated in the Rural District during the year.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable disease in the district during the year:-

Section F. Infectious Disease

The Incidence of cases of Notifiable Disease during 1951 is shown in the following Table

	Under One Year	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	65-	Total cases notified
1. Smallpox		1	2	9	2	1	1	-	-
2. Scarlet Fever									16
3. Diphtheria									-
4. Enteric Fever									-
5. Puerperal Pyrexia									-
6. Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	2	2	3	2	2	13	5	29
7. Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1	4	-		5
8. Encephalitis Lethargica									-
9. Measles (excluding Rubella)	3	37	47	98	6	4	5	-	200
10. Whooping Cough	6	26	19	43	3	-	4	2	103
11. Acute Poliomyelitis									-
12. Dysentery									-
13. Ophthalmia Neonatorum									-
 TOTALS	 354	 9	 66	 70	 153	 13	 8	 28	 7

T U B E R C U L O S I S

New cases and Mortality during 1951

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths [*]			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
15	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
25	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55								
65 and over								
Totals	2	3	1	-	1	2	-	-

^{*} Compiled from the Tuberculosis Register
and Local Registrar's Death Returns

Number of Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of the year.

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Annual Totals
	M	F	M	F	
1947	29	26	14	16	85
1948	30	24	18	17	89
1949	28	26	16	17	87
1950	33	27	15	18	93
1951	34	28	16	18	96

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

MARGARET C. FELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY OFFICER AND BUILDING SURVEYOR

Public Health Department,
1 The Tything,
Worcester.

August, 1952.

To the Rural District Council of Martley

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my fifth annual report on the work of my Department in relation to the administration of the Rural District for the year ending 31st December, 1951.

As the attached report will show, little improvement in the public services provided by the Council has been made but much planning and preparatory work on the comprehensive scheme of water supply and the construction and improvement of sewerage and sewage disposal has been carried out.

The comprehensive water scheme has gradually taken shape but many meetings, conferences etc., were needed before definite proposals could be forwarded to the Ministry. The foundation has now been laid, however, for this much needed service and it is hoped that, should the Ministry approve of the Council's proposals, work on the trial borehole at least should commence during the early part of 1952.

Housing, piped water and sewerage in that order are the main problems confronting the Council. In the housing field the year has been one of strenuous effort resulting in gradual progress towards the proper housing of the population. Looking back, the results sometimes appear to have little relationship to the amount of effort expended by all departments of the Council. Many cases of hardship are still known to exist through lack of homes and by the occupation of bad houses; in my opinion people living in bad houses are often worse off from a health point of view than those living in lodgings; it is unfortunate that the best use can not be made of existing accommodation in providing accommodation for small families.

The Ministries of Local Government and Planning, Food and Agriculture are now primarily responsible for the work carried out by the Public Health Department instead of the Ministry of Health. Our relations with these Ministries are very good and it is pleasing to note that there are indications of a more realistic approach to our problems.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. L. PRATT,

Chief Sanitary Officer,
Building Surveyor.

The Council continued to carry out the duties delegated to them by the County Council under the Town and Country Planning Act and this arrangement worked smoothly during the year. The delegation agreement was amended to allow the County Council at the request or with the approval of the District Council to take action themselves on any delegated matter. During the year the County Council made, and the Ministry confirmed, a direction under article IV of the General Development Order 1950 to secure control of any new development on land used as a site for "shacks."

The Council, in conjunction with the County Council, took action on the "shack" problem in areas adjoining the River Severn which are used for weekend and holiday accommodation and some enforcement notices were issued for unauthorised buildings. There were few cases of deliberate contravention of the Planning Act and informal action was taken in four instances, three of these being regularised during the year.

The co-operation between the Planning Committee of this authority and the County Planning Officer continued to be good and in only two cases was there a "Difference of Opinion" which had to be referred to the County Planning Committee. Two appeals were made to the Ministry after Planning Refusals had been issued. The Council's Planning Committee in both instances were in favour of the application and the Ministry gave permission to develop to both applicants.

During the year the County Development Plan was approved by the County Council in principle and was considered by the District Council. Apart from certain areas of the district being scheduled as being of great scenic beauty, the development plan does not show any proposals for land use other than that of agriculture. In order to assist the Council in their housing programme, especially in the dormitory villages adjoining Worcester City, it would be of assistance if village plans could be prepared in the near future and areas defined where development would be permitted.

During the year the Council amended the building byelaw regarding the height of rooms and the Ministry confirmed the alteration from eight feet to seven feet six inches. The provisions of the building byelaws regarding the conversion of buildings to one or more dwellings were shown to be very inadequate and great difficulty was experienced during the year in the case of a large house being divided into several dwellings. The resulting dwellings are far below the standard which the Council would desire but it would appear that there is no means of preventing the provision of this type of accommodation either by byelaw regulation or other statutory means.

Applications to Develop

	Plans for new construction	Preliminary enquiries	Change of use of land and buildings.
Brought forward from 1950	4	2	1
Received during 1951	74	18	65
Total applications	78	20	66
			164

1. TOWN PLANNING AND BUILDING BYELAWS (continued)

Applications to Develop

	Plans for new construction	Preliminary enquiries	Change of use of land and buildings
Applications approved	70	14	38
Applications refused	6	3	3
Applications outstanding	2	3	25*
Total	78	20	66
			<u>164</u>

* Including 24 applications for permission to retain "shacks" referred to the County Council.

Building Byelaws

Brought forward from 1950	-	4
Received during 1951	-	91
		95
Applications approved	-	91
Applications refused	-	2
Applications outstanding	-	2
		95

2. HOUSINGBuilding Licensing

The functions delegated to this Authority by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government continued to be carried out on the same lines as previously. The Council's allocation of new houses was as follows:-

26. 9. 50 - 26 houses
9. 10. 51 - 21 houses

and licences were issued for private houses in the ratio as laid down by the Ministry. In addition five applications for assistance under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Acts ("Subsidy House") were approved, and one licence for a farmhouse issued by the Ministry of Works.

2 HOUSING (CONTINUED)

A. Building licensing

As will be seen from the table below only four licences for new houses were issued during the year but, with the change in government policy in November, several more licences were ~~ear~~-marked and it is hoped that the rate of building of private houses will show an improvement during the next twelve months.

The "Free Allowance" of £100 per house for repairs remained in force during the year and the Licensing Committee had great difficulty in meeting demands for conversions and the necessary repairs from their allocation. Owing to the increase in building costs the 20% reduction on the 1949 figures became virtually a 33% reduction. The Licensing Committee endeavoured to see that no urgent works of repair were held up but the overall effect of controlling repair work must be in the deterioration of older property and a reduction in the provision of new housing accommodation by the conversion of buildings into dwellings.

It is hoped that during the next twelve months greater flexibility in repair and conversion work will be permitted either by an increase in the "Free Allowance" or by raising the ceiling under which the Council may issue such licences.

	<u>No. of licences</u>	<u>Amount</u>
New houses	4	£ 6,998
Contraventions and additional accommodation	19	9,947
House repairs (over £100)	40	10,925
Other repairs, Supplementary Licences etc.	6	1,463
	69	22,335

Housing

It is a matter for regret that there has been little improvement in the standard of housing generally during the year and the policy of this department has again been to maintain as many premises as possible in a condition sufficient to permit occupation. Only those premises which it was found impossible to repair or improve have been subjected to Demolition Orders.

With further increases in the price of materials and wages the cost of house repair is now out of all proportion to the value of the premises and the controlled rents and it is becoming increasingly difficult to ask for major repairs which could be considered "reasonable" in expense as defined by the Housing Acts. This position makes it impossible for a housing authority to fulfil their statutory duties and little guidance has been given by the Central Government to the problem of maintaining house property in a reasonable state for habitation.

B. HOUSING (continued)

The logical conclusion to this problem would appear to be in the purchase by the housing authority of substandard property from owners who are unable to maintain it in a proper state of repair. This will, no doubt, be an unpopular policy as it will mean subsidising slum property by the authority charged with its demolition and replacement. As an alternative, increases in the controlled rents could be made under licence from the local authority if their requirements as to repairs were carried out.

Amendments are necessary also to the conditions under which Improvement Grants are made, as laid down in the Housing Act, 1949. Many houses have an estimated life of 30 years or more but lack modern amenities and it should be possible for them to be improved with assistance from the local authority and thus prevent them from becoming the slums of the future. The present standard required after the improvements have been made is impracticable under the £600 limit; some of these requirements could be omitted and the £600 maximum cost raised to include the increases in building costs. If this amendment were made and local authorities would administer the Act as it was intended and not consider each application purely on financial grounds, many houses could be improved and maintained in good condition.

C.

Rehousing

The improvement recorded last year in the rate of rehousing persons living in overcrowded houses or in houses which are dangerous or in bad condition has been continued and this is due to the co-operation and active assistance of the Housing Committee and the Housing Manager. All applications for Council houses are now visited by this department and reports and recommendations made to the Housing Committee to assist them in choosing suitable tenants. Out of 58 lettings made during the year 26, or 45%, were made to cases recommended on Public Health grounds.

It would now seem that the number of homeless families requiring houses urgently is being reduced and this will allow tenants of unsuitable houses to be rehoused and the fate of their houses considered by the Public Health Committee. In these cases major repairs or improvements are made where possible and the houses relet to other families.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

A.

House Drainage

During the year 20 septic tanks were installed, 23 houses were connected to public sewers, and a private sewage treatment plant constructed to serve a group of 9 houses. The usual supervision was exercised over all new house drainage schemes.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL (continued)

A table showing the number of houses connected to public sewers etc., is contained in the report of the Medical Officer.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Rushwick

Seventy-eight houses are now connected to the public sewer in this district, which is about 83% of the total number of houses on the line of the sewer.

This scheme is working well and no complaints as to smell arising from manholes has been made since regular flushing was carried out.

North Hallow

No major works of improvement have been carried out during the year and the quality of the effluent has been maintained at the improved level reached last year. The works are still overloaded, however, and additional sludge drying beds are required; owing to the difficult situation of the works land will have to be acquired for this purpose in the near future. The new access road to the works was completed during the year.

Broadheath

The amended scheme to serve the school and the area near the Bell Inn, which was suggested by the Ministry of Health when postponing the major scheme for the Parish, was prepared and approved by the Ministry and the County Council. Eventually a starting date of the 1st December, 1951 was obtained but, owing to the difficult nature of the ground, this was considered by the Council to be unreasonable. Despite representations an amended starting date could not be obtained and towards the end of the year the Council accepted a tender for this work. The approval of the Ministry to the tender has not yet been obtained.

Clifton-on-Teme

The scheme for the provision of treatment works in place of land irrigation was submitted to the Ministry and an informal inquiry was held on the 17th July, 1951. The Council were informed by the Ministry that some amendments to the scheme should be made in an endeavour to reduce the cost and this was done. Approval to the scheme has not yet been received.

Martley

The scheme for the enlargement of the treatment works and the laying of sewers in the Jury Lane area was completed during the year.

Details were also prepared for an extension of the sewer to a part of the village and these were approved by the Council and the County Council and submitted to the Ministry.

Generally speaking little has been done during the year in the actual improvement of the sewage disposal of the district with the exception of Jury Lane area, Martley, but a great deal of preparatory work has been carried out and schemes submitted to the various authorities and it is hoped that these schemes will be installed in the very near future.

In addition to the schemes already prepared the areas of Sinton Green and Leigh Sinton will have to be sewerized as soon as possible and small extensions to the sewers are urgently required at North Hallow.

4. WATER SUPPLIES

Private Supplies

As reported by the Medical Officer 26 wells in the district were sampled during the year and of these 15 were found to be unsatisfactory chemically and 17 bacteriologically. 10 wells were repaired and cleaned resulting in an improvement in the quality of the water.

It is believed that, generally speaking, the condition of well water in the district is deteriorating due to the contamination of the ground surrounding the wells; the need for a piped supply of water to all areas has been stressed in previous reports but is growing more urgent every year.

Public Supplies

Details of the number of houses supplied from public mains are given in the Report of the Medical Officer. No extensions or alterations to these supplies were made during the year.

4. WATER SUPPLIES (continued)

Public Supplies

The comprehensive scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer was approved by the County Council in principle in January 1951. The Council's application to the Ministry of Health had been made at the end of 1950 but the Ministry deferred consideration of it until the Council's observations on the recommendations contained in the West Midlands Water Supply Survey had been received. The Council gave consideration to the report of this Survey and were not entirely in favour of the proposals made. After attending a conference of all local authorities in the County they informed the Minister that any decision as to the adoption of the recommendations contained in the Survey Report would rest on the result of the test borehole at Astley. The Ministry would not hold their formal inquiry until agreements for the purchase of the necessary land had been reached and negotiations were proceeding in this direction until the end of the year.

During the year the Council were informed by Malvern Urban District Council that they were willing to release the Parish of Leigh from their Statutory Area.

Clifton-on-Teme

The quantity of water pumped during the year for use in this Parish was 2,275,000 gallons as compared with 2,393,500 gallons in 1950. The consumption of water in this parish now appears to have reached its peak.

No major works of repair or improvement were required during the year and the yield from the source proved more than adequate for the needs of the village.

North Hallow

The mains supply to a part of this parish is controlled by the City of Worcester. Additional premises were connected to the mains during the year and it would now appear that the curtailment of the supply to 56,000 gallons per week under the agreement between the two authorities is not necessary as the City of Worcester have recently enlarged their works and have a plentiful supply of water.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

A. Refuse Collection

The scheme for regular fortnightly collection in six parishes, at two monthly intervals in 17 parishes and three monthly intervals in 4 parishes was continued during the current year.

The cost of refuse collection showed an increase during the year which was due mainly to the increase in the price of petrol and oil and to the increase in wages of the employees. There were two such increases for loaders amounting to an extra 11/2d. per week and three increases for drivers amounting to 16/10d. per week.

The collection of refuse during the year was carried out according to schedule except in one or two instances of transport breakdowns when a few complaints were received from householders.

B. Refuse Storage

The Council continued to sell dustbins to the public at cost price plus a small delivery charge but the fullest use of this scheme was not made during the year. Only 38 bins were supplied to householders and there is still room for a great improvement in the types of containers used by the public for storing house refuse.

C. Refuse Disposal

Attempts were made during the year to obtain new sites for refuse tips but in two cases the County Planning Committee refused permission although the District Council, who are the sanitary authority, were satisfied that these sites were suitable. It was possible to find an alternative site in one case but in the other area no tip is available and this adds to the cost of collection.

An attempt is being made to complete the reinstatement of all finished tips by covering with soil and regular covering of the tips in use has prevented so far any complaint of nuisance from smell, insects etc.

D. Salvage

The increased publicity for the saving of salvage which was carried out towards the end of 1950 resulted in higher sales during the current year. The abnormally high prices of the various grades of waste paper

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE (continued)

Salvage

also assisted in offsetting the increased cost of collection of refuse.

The following quantities of salvage were sold during the year:-

Waste paper, all grades	-	23 tons 11 cwts	-	£351 15 6d.
Scrap metal, all grades	-	8 tons 15 cwts	-	41 0 6d.
Rags	-	8 cwts	-	7 4 0d.
Bottles, all grades	-	207 dozen	-	5 17 9d.
				405 17 9d.

6. SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The byelaws for the handling, wrapping etc., of food adopted by the Council came into force on the 9th April, 1951. During the year a survey of all premises where food was sold or manufactured was carried out and the following is a summary of the report:-

The premises inspected were mostly small family businesses the largest employing only two or three persons. The shops are generally attached to a house and apart from a few minor defects are in a good state of repair. In most shops where un-wrapped food is displayed provision has been made for protective covers, especially where confectionary is displayed. The majority of the premises have a glazed sink connected to a proper drainage system and whilst this is normally situated in the house it is capable of serving both domestic and trade requirements. It was found necessary to ask for separate washing accommodation for persons employed in bakehouses.

Few shops have a continuous supply of hot water for washing purposes but it was considered that where hot water could be made readily available by means of an electric kettle or other appliance this should be considered satisfactory for such small premises.

All the premises inspected appeared to be clear of any infestations of pests or vermin but it is common practice in the district to allow domestic pets access to shops. Notices have been issued to all premises prohibiting the taking of dogs into foodshops and an attempt is being made to have all displayed food stuffs raised from the floor and to prohibit the exhibition of food stuffs on pavements or in doorways.

6 SUPERVISION OF FOOD (continued)

A survey is now being made of all licensed premises with a view to improving the washing facilities, kitchens and sanitary accommodation and a full report on this work will be given in the next annual report.

Slaughter Houses

Meat consumed in this area is slaughtered and inspected at the Worcester abattoir which is supervised by the Worcester City authority. No complaints regarding the condition of meat allocated to this area were received during the year.

Ice-cream

Number of licences to retail ice-cream - 34

Number of licences to manufacture ice-cream - 1

Five routine samples were taken from manufacturers and retailers during the year and all were certified as satisfactory.

The one manufacturer in the area has completely remodelled his premises which are now very satisfactory in all respects.

Milk Production

The duties remaining with the local authority under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1949 were carried out and all the premises were found to be satisfactory.

There are no pasteurising plants in the district and only four dairymen are registered.

Food and Drugs Adulteration

The responsibility for this work rests with the Worcestershire County Council.

Camps and Moveable Dwellings

Regular inspections of camping sites and sites for moveable dwellings were made during the year. Generally speaking the conditions found were satisfactory and informal action only was required in one or two instances.

Two holiday camping sites were licensed to accommodate 22 caravans and three single sites for holiday use were also approved. A general improvement was noticed in the supervision of new camping sites and, in conjunction with the Planning Authority, work has been commenced on improving those sites which were licensed many years ago.

Nine caravans were licensed for permanent occupation, mainly by young married couples who were unable to obtain houses. It has been found, however, that this type of accommodation is unsuitable during the winter months and that bringing up young children is both difficult and unhealthy.

The Council agreed to adopt byelaws relating to tents, vans and sheds and similar buildings but these had not been confirmed by the Ministry by the end of the year.

Hop-pickers Accommodation

Hop-picking commenced in this district during the first week of September; good weather and a normal crop resulted in the work being completed within a month on the majority of farms.

The installation of hop-picking machines on several farms reduced the number of pickers considerably and, according to the Food Office, the total number imported into the District was 2,820. The number of non-resident pickers employed on this work, exclusive of regular farm employees, is estimated to be 1,643.

Last year five machines were in operation and a further eleven were installed this year, making a total of sixteen. One of these machines, a mobile one for working in the fields, was not a success and hand-picking had to be employed. Of the larger farms only eight still employ pickers and the majority of pickers are employed on the smaller farms.

The following figures are of interest for comparison:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>No. of Machines</u>	<u>Imported Pickers</u>		<u>Approx. No. of Local Pickers</u>
		<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>	
1944	1	5,873	850	Not Known
1947	1	5,300	1,837	"
1949	1	5,637	810	"
1950	5	4,600	548	"
1951	16	2,003	817	1643

The number of farms on which hop-pickers were housed was 27.

7 MISCELLANEOUS (continued)

Hop-pickers Accommodation (continued)

The condition of the quarters was remarkably good and thorough cleansing was carried out before the arrival of the pickers. During their stay the scavenging on several farms was poor and the growers had to be requested to improve matters. Generally speaking, little trouble was experienced this year and informal action only was necessary to obtain the required improvements.

The services of six nurses, three of whom were employed whole time, were provided by the County Council and these, together with the Salvation Army workers, were able to visit daily all farms where pickers were housed. Any necessary medical attention was given by the local doctors and the arrangements worked well this year.

No cases of infectious disease were notified amongst the hop-pickers.

Dr. Donaldson of the Ministry of Health spent two days in the district inspecting the barracks. In a letter from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government referring to a report made by Dr. Donaldson on his visit, the Council were complimented on the generally good standard of hygiene in the camps; it was noted that this was too frequently marred by untidiness and insufficient scavenging.

Members and officials of Dudley Corporation Education Committee again spent a day in the district but, on this occasion, notification was made to this Authority prior to their visit. No communication has been received from them since their visit.

The use of the machine now seems to be an accepted fact and it is understood that one is now being produced for use on the smaller farms. It would appear therefore that in a few years time every hop-grower will have installed a machine and that very few imported pickers will have to be housed. On this assumption no action is being taken to replace defective barracks but every effort is made to see that the pickers are housed in reasonable conditions and that the Byelaw requirements are complied with in all cases.

C.

Petroleum Act

The total number of storage licences issued during the year was 65 and the gallonage involved was 57,400.

Eight new licences were issued and the site and construction of the storage tanks and pumps was carried out under my supervision.

D.

Rodent Control

More than a years experience of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 has shown an increased success in rodent control measures. It is felt that this work is not fully appreciated by the Council and that it is not realised that, by keeping the rodent population within

7 MISCELLANEOUS (continued)

D. Rodent Control (continued)

reasonable limits, a very useful contribution at a small cost is being made to the food production programme and to the prevention of disease. In addition a useful advisory and practical service is provided for rate payers who are making fuller use of it every year; in addition to destroying pests, the fact that premises are regularly inspected for their presence tends to make the occupiers conscious that rats and mice are not just a necessary evil and that they can assist in keeping their premises clear.

Improved methods and materials are constantly being used and their success on premises where domestic and farm animals are kept has resulted in a period free from claims for damage to such animals.

During the year the Council agreed to give free treatment to all private houses and to make an inclusive charge of 10/- per hour for work on business premises.

The number of treatments carried out during the year was as follows:-

<u>Type of Premises</u>		<u>Treatments</u>
1. Private dwellings	-	167
2. Business Premises	-	40
3. Local Authority Sewers	-	8
4. Local Authority Refuse Tips		21
5. Various other premises	-	45
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TOTAL		281
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SUPERVISION OF WORK PLACES

The following is a summary of the work carried out under this heading:-

	<u>Registered</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Defects</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Factories with power	29	33		1	1
Factories without power	2	2		1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
	31	35		2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>

In addition 5 inspections were made of the premises used by outworkers in the making of gloves.

